

AMATEURADIO

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and Amateur Satellite Services

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Hams to the Rescue in India

An impending low pressure system in the Bay of Bengal was causing great concern throughout India. After its formation, the depression steadily moved toward the Indian coast, heading for Andhra Pradesh province. An alert was given, and citizens were being evacuated as a precautionary measure. Amateur Radio operators were maintaining a 24-hour watch on the developments, prepared and ready to go at a moment's notice. Government authorities were glad that Amateur Radio was an available resource.

On the evening of September 4, the storm struck over a vast area. Record-breaking torrential rains lashed the coast of Andhra Pradesh, inundating many areas. Many people were killed and property damage was extensive. Roads and telecommunications facilities were cut off, and breaches in reservoirs made it impossible to provide relief to many localities.

The provincial government requisitioned helicopters from the Indian Air Force. They were deployed to take men and supplies to the marooned villages. Ham radio operator Rama Mohan Rao coordinated much of the disaster relief efforts.

Hams manned the amateur station at the port town of Visakhapatnam for 14 hours a day during the emergency. A Control Center for the operation was established at



Amateur Radio operator "Ali" relays an emergency message from the mobile emergency communications center near Kakinada.

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Wilderness Tragedy

Field Day, a yearly Amateur Radio emergency preparedness exercise sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, is defined as two fun days in the mountains for the Capital City (Montana) Amateur Radio Club. The few days in the mountains means warmth and relaxation to most of the club's members.

Chuck Thomas picked up the antennas and radio equipment and delivered them to Jim Haslip's cabin. On Saturday, June 25, members began arriving with their families. The day was warm and the kids wanted to look for frogs. A teenager, who was an experienced babysitter, volunteered to watch the kids. With buckets in hand, they wandered down to the creek.

At 3:30 P.M. there was a call for help. Nyleen, the four-year-old daughter of Kim and Nancy Marshall, had disappeared. Immediately, adults and children began calling her and searching the nearby area. After a fruitless canvass of the nearby area, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office was notified. Upon receipt of the call, the Sheriff's Office notified Lewis & Clark County Search and Rescue. Our local Radio Amateur Radio Civil Emergency Service (RACES) repeater, temporarily out of service, was quickly repaired by John Johnston. (A repeater is an automatic retransmitting device, usually located on a high mountain or atop a tall tower, used to increase the range of low-power mobile and portable radio equipment.) A command post was established by the Sheriff's Office at the cabin. Thomas and his wife Betty manned a ham radio communication post from their camper. Les Crouter, our oldest and most experienced operator (80 years old) put through the first of hundreds of phone patches. (A phone patch is a telephone to ham radio interconnection.)

After two and a half days, Lewis & Clark Search and Rescue left the scene. Under the coordination of Tim Campbell, Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff, a well-

coordinated search effort was made. Search teams with ham communication were dispatched by Deputy Campbell to specific areas. Field locations and useful evidence were reported by ham radio. Upon receiving a message that a group had found something of interest — a footprint, a handful of picked flowers, a deep mine shaft — a searcher with special training (tracker, spelunker, etc.) would be dispatched immediately by radio to the exact location.

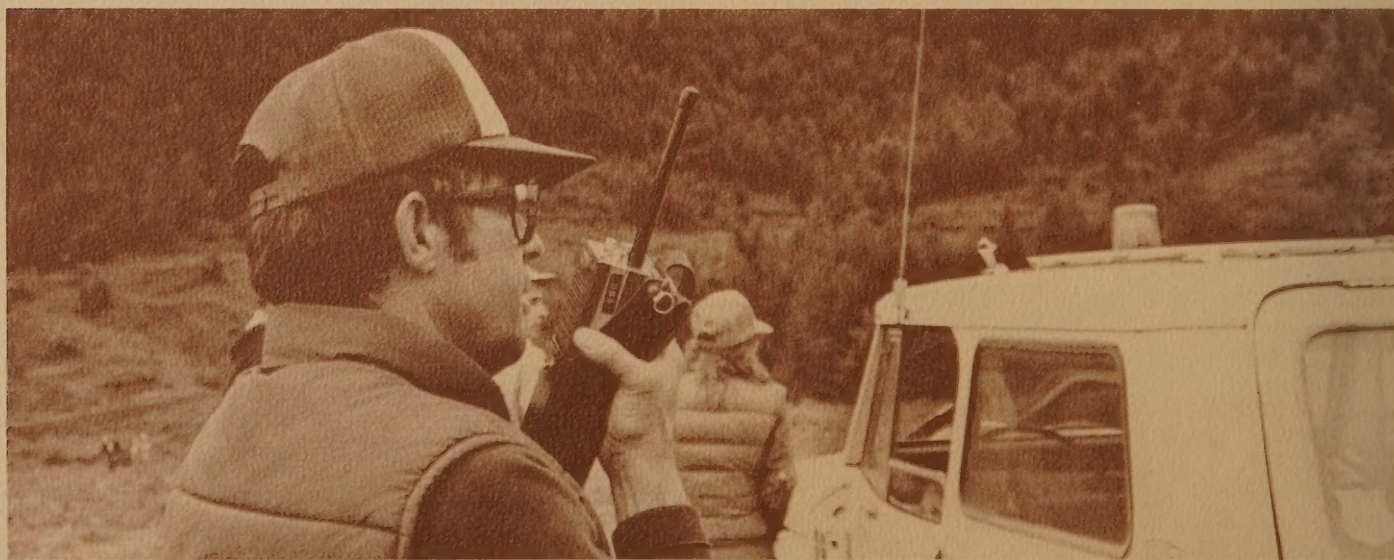
Calls were made via radio to nearby areas to get reinforcements. Within hours, extra radio equipment and hams who could leave work arrived. Gene Shea, Fred Cady, and Bill Merrick set up a portable emergency repeater on a nearby mountain to provide more efficient communications with their hand-held ("walkie-talkie") radios. ARRL Section Manager for Montana, Les Belyea, quickly established procedures by which ARRL and FCC policies could be followed.

For 10 days, men and women who hardly knew one another were united by a single concern: the search for a lost child. People who had never heard of ham radio became aware of its capabilities. Emergency personnel were impressed by the professionalism of the amateurs and the efficient running of the communication network. Jefferson County Sheriff Tom Dawson stated, "I don't know what we would have done without the hams. From my point of view, they were the backbone of the communications."

Yet, even with the hundreds of searchers and the well-coordinated communication system, we never did find Nyleen. The best people in the country were unable to find any sign of her presence.

Ham radio and the rest of the community provided its best. While we know we did everything possible to find Nyleen, we know we face the coming months remembering that our best was not enough.

— Allen S. Lefohn



Jim Haslip was one of the hundreds of volunteer Amateur Radio operators searching the Elkhorn Mountains of Montana for a lost four-year-old child.

(photo by Gene Fischer, Helena Independent Record)

General Curtis E. LeMay — Ham Radio Operator

by Lenore Jensen, Worldradio

An airman who rose to become Chief of Staff of the Air Force is also a ham radio operator — four-star General Curtis E. LeMay (Ret.).



Four-star General Curtis E. LeMay (Ret.) spends a few relaxing hours talking to his Amateur Radio friends.

(photo by Bob Jensen)

Curtis' passion for airplanes and deep belief in their abilities sprang from his first sight of a flying machine at the age of four or five.

Curtis LeMay became one of the first navigator-pilots of the then new B-17 heavy bomber and excelled as an operations and intelligence officer. In 1937, he executed a daring navigational feat by fulfilling a promise to locate a certain ship 600 miles out to sea — a big news event of the day. He pioneered ferry routes to Africa via South America and the South Atlantic, as well as to England over the North Atlantic. (It all seems so easy in 1984.)

Later assignments in the Pacific during World War II found him using B-29s in the China-Burma-India theatre, as well as Tokyo. His low-flying strategies were particularly successful.

Retiring in 1965, General LeMay looks back on tremendous accomplishment through hard work and innovative procedures. But LeMay just shrugs and says, "When something has to be done, you just dig in and do the best you can."

He likes to think forward, not backward, and has deep convictions as to where our nation should head. Like the little boy who saw his first flying machine, Curtis LeMay likes to look up.

(Reprinted with permission from Worldradio)

Rescue

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the Secretariat of the Andhra Pradesh government. Hundreds of emergency messages were passed to and from the affected areas via ham radio.

Many government officials were impressed with Amateur Radio capabilities, and a number of them expressed the desire to join the Amateur Radio fraternity themselves! The Magistrate of Kakinada is planning to purchase amateur equipment and starting a radio club to encourage interest in Amateur Radio.

Other organizations such as the police, fire service and Air Force were also favorably impressed with ham radio, particularly the portability and compactness of amateur equipment.

My sincere thanks to all amateurs who participated in the emergency. My special gratitude goes to the Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue, the Commissioner of Relief Operations, and other officials of the Nizamabad, Vijayawada, Kakinada and Visakhapatnam districts who gave Amateur Radio operators the opportunity to prove our worth.

— Anil Ray

Secretary, Hyderabad Radio Amateurs

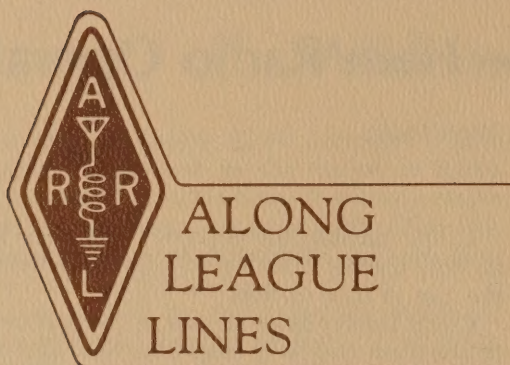
Along League Lines

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many new hams from getting on the air, and providing convenient opportunities for amateur exams through the Volunteer Examiner Program are all on our agenda.

The Amateur Radio demonstrations during the past year have made the public more aware of what the Amateur Radio Service is all about. 1983 is going to be a tough act to follow.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE? Contact Perry Williams, ARRL's Washington Area Coordinator, and arrange for a personal visit by calling (202) 296-9107.



Last summer's successful launch of another amateur satellite ushered in a new era of amateur satellite communications; unprecedented national publicity resulting from the Grenada evacuation and Owen Garriott's operation from space gave radio amateurs a more favorable and higher-profile public image than we had enjoyed in many years; and FCC's dropping of its no-code license proposal was an early Christmas present for hams, to say the least. To be sure, there were problems and challenges to be faced, but as 1983 drew to a close, radio amateurs had ample justification for feeling good about their avocation and themselves.

None of this happened by accident. It was the result of a lot of hard work by a lot of people. And the vehicle for much of that effort was the American Radio Relay League.

Our hopes for a successful satellite launch aside, the first indication that 1983 would be a very special year

came with the realization that getting Amateur Radio aboard NASA's Space Shuttle was not just a fantasy. Dozens of amateurs and supporters in NASA, ARRL, AMSAT (the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, a non-profit scientific organization of amateur satellite users), Motorola and elsewhere were destined to become the team that made the first live Amateur Radio operation from space a reality.

Non-amateurs began to look at our backyard antennas with new appreciation and respect. Not since the launch of Sputnik I in 1957, when hams were among the few equipped to hear the first man-made signals from space, had we served as the ears of the nation to such an extent and with so little warning.

With all this favorable publicity, one might reasonably expect to find an increasing number of people wanting to become radio amateurs — and already there are some signs that this is happening. Instructors across the country are reporting that their licensing classes are filling up. An encouraging increase in ARRL membership is developing.

The League will endeavor to ensure a healthy and vibrant future for the Amateur Radio Service. Instilling a willingness to meet licensing requirements, helping newcomers overcome the obstacles which discourage

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